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MAY 2022 • VOLUME 43, ISSUE 5

FREE

Little Earth patrols work to fill safety gap after breach in trust



Jolene Jones looks on outside the Little Earth on April 10. (Photo by Kerem Yücel / MPR News.)

BY MELISSA OLSON

During the unrest that followed the murder of George Floyd, members of the Little Earth Protectors, a Minneapolis neighborhood patrol, were caught between protestors and law enforcement. Two years later, residents of Little Earth are trying to improve the safety of the area, but they say trust in law enforcement is a work in progress. A recent report leaves unanswered who fired so-called less lethal munitions at people permitted to patrol their neighborhood.

“Nobody’s apologized. So it makes us feel like they don’t really care,” said Jolene Jones, who was a lead organizer of the Little Earth Protectors.

Little Earth of United Tribes is an urban housing development for people from as many as 32 distinct tribal nations.

In the days following the murder of Floyd by police, community members in Minneapolis called on relatives from a northern Ojibwe community who work as Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT).

Leech Lake EMT Jeff Harper remembers seeing Little Earth Protectors meet protestors attempting to march through Little Earth.

“There’s probably about 50 community members...mostly women and younger people. And they just...locked arms and said go back to where you’re coming from. And they didn’t realize it but National Guard and law enforcement were coming up on each side of them,” Harper said.

Mayor Jacob Frey’s office had granted the protectors and other community patrols an exemption from curfew, but officers fired hard foam rounds and chemical munitions. Little Earth protectors say at least two people were injured.

An outside review of state enforcement action during the unrest does not specifically indicate who did the firing. Officials with the Minnesota Department of Public Safety declined an interview request.

We were just witnesses

Jolene Jones said Little Earth Protectors choose to engage the community in ways that police haven’t. In one instance, working to earn the trust of youth at Little Earth who like to hang out on the footbridge that crosses over Cedar Avenue.

At first, youth were distrustful of adults carrying walkie talkies, who could be talking with police. Jones said patrols would turn up the volume so the younger people could hear the civilians talking with each other.

“We kept telling them...we were just witnesses. We’re here to keep the community safe,” said patrol member Jackie Neadeau, president of the Little Earth Resident Association. Neadeau also works with the American Indian Movement Patrol.

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New rules for Buy Indian Act take effect May 9

BY LEE EGERSTROM

The U.S. Interior Department published final rules in April for its Buy Indian Act regulations, bringing closer to an end a process underway for about 20 years aimed at boosting business for tribal and Native-owned businesses.

The rules go into effect on May 9. They are intended to promote economic opportunities in and near tribal communities, said Interior’s Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs Bryan Newland. “This is a key part of our goal to make sure that Indian people have the opportunity to live safe, healthy and fulfilling lives in their tribal communities,” he said.

“It’s here! The Buy Indian Act is a fact of life,” said Kay Bills, an Osage Nation member in Oklahoma who has been pushing for a workable form of the legislation for more than two decades.

A former U.S. Department of Commerce official in Washington promoting Native enterprises, and a former entrepreneur herself in Alaska, Bills has pushed Congress, the federal departments of government, and others over the years to open doors and support programs for Native entrepreneurship.

She and Pamela Standing, executive director of the Minnesota Indigenous Business Alliance (MNIBA), prepared a background “white paper” for American Indian and Alaska Native organizations in 2015 on the developing programs.

Bills has devoted her life to helping get Indian business rules and regulations authorized and functioning, Standing said.

“She is an amazing Osage woman who has tirelessly fought this battle for years and has been committed to educating our leaders, community

members and businesses on how to implement this law,” Standing said.

Her work and that of tribal and nonprofit Indian group leaders across the nation with government officials has been paying off.

The Interior Department announcement noted that the updated Indian Community Economic Enhancement Act of 2020 prioritized support for federally registered Indian Economic Enterprises (IEEs). This led to \$280 million in federal spending with Native-owned businesses when in 2018, for instance, there was \$85.4 million in Buy Indian Act federal purchases.

The new rules also align Interior’s Indian Affairs programs with Department of Health and Human Services Indian Health Service (IHS) for local contracting.

Interior explained the purpose of the regulation changes this way:

- Eliminate barriers to Indian Economic Enterprises (IEEs) from competing on certain construction contracts.
- Expand IEE abilities to subcontract construction work consistent with other socio-economic set-aside programs, and
- Give greater preference to IEEs when a deviation from the Buy Indian Act is necessary, among other updates.

The proof – or carry through – is always in the pudding.

In the past, Bills said, Congress has sometimes authorized versions of the act and then failed to appropriate money for the Interior Department and its Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) to carry it out. In other times, responsibility for promoting Indian businesses were placed in the Commerce Department with other programs designed to help minority businesses.

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Down to the wire for Native nonprofit funding at MN Legislature

BY LEE EGERSTROM

Minnesotans have come to expect time will run out before the Minnesota Legislature gets its work done, requiring special sessions, but urban Native nonprofit organizations with funding requests before the lawmakers are still hopeful that this year will be different.

The regular session of the Legislature is scheduled to adjourn on May 23. Bills authorizing public support and appropriations are supposed to clear committees well before then. That includes 12 project requests promoted by Twin Cities urban Native nonprofits groups seeking \$83.3 million in state funding.

The requests, lumped together by a 16-member Urban Indigenous Legacy Initiative (UILI) collaborative organization, were making headway by late April in the Minnesota House of Representatives. Less so in the Minnesota Senate.

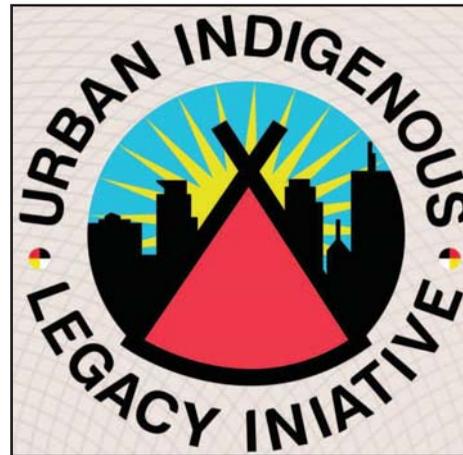
Nonetheless, a leader in the Native American collaborative effort said he is "greatly encouraged" by progress to date. Joe Hobot, PhD (Hunkpapa Lakota), president and chief executive at American Indian OIC and also chair of

the Metropolitan Urban Indian Directors (MUID) group, told *The Circle* the challenge ahead is to match House success in the Senate.

"We know this will require a considerable effort, but (we) are heartened by our steadfast allies and champions in the Senate – notably Sen. Mary Kunesh, Sen. Sandy Pappas and Sen. Bobby Joe Champion," Hobot said. Kunesh, a Standing Rock Sioux Tribe descendant, is from New Brighton; Pappas is from St. Paul, Champion is from Minneapolis. All are Democrats. Rep. Hodan Hassan, DFL-Minneapolis, is the chief sponsor in the House.

While speculating on legislative success in any state is risky, it is especially tough in divided Minnesota. The Minnesota House is controlled by Democrats; the Senate by Republicans. Adding to the political divide is pressure from this being another election year for state officials.

The UILI was formed by urban Native nonprofit groups to coordinate their efforts and lessen competition for public support. The joint proposal to the Legislature this year is called Clyde Bellecourt Urban Indigenous Initiative in honor of the Native community leader and founder of several urban



Twin Cities organizations. Bellecourt died Jan. 11 this year.

This year's 12 funding requests are for both new and continuing building programs. They include continuing projects such as \$5 million for renovation, expansion and repairs at the Minneapolis American Indian Center, \$4.4 million for new facilities for MIGIZI following destruction after the murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis, and \$2.2 million to improve facilities and emergency shelters at Ain Dah Yung Center locations in St. Paul.

New construction projects would include \$35.4 million for a new campus and building for AIOIC and its educa-

tion and employment training programs in Minneapolis, \$12 million for Native American Community Clinic to construct a new building for respite housing in the American Indian Cultural Corridor in Minneapolis, \$6.2 million for American Indian Community Center to develop Montessori and other family services center location in St. Paul, \$6 million for American Indian Development Center to design an inpatient opioid treatment facility in either Minneapolis or St. Paul, and \$2.5 million for the Indigenous Peoples Task Force to buy land and construct a multiservice center in the Phillips neighborhood in Minneapolis.

Other projects proposed for funding include \$4.2 million for the Minnesota Indian Women's Resources Center to renovate a Native women and families housing building in Minneapolis, \$2.5 million for the Division of Indian Work to build a facility in south Minneapolis, \$2.2 million for Little Earth of United Tribes to renovate and repair its Minneapolis facilities for housing and programs, and \$1.4 million for the Lower Phalen Creek Project in St. Paul to build the Wakan Tipi Center in the Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary.



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May 19 deadline to submit concerns about new Line 3 abandonment

BY LEE EGERSTROM

Environmental groups and people possibly affected should the new Enbridge Energy Line 3 pipeline across northern Minnesota be abandoned are asking neighbors to express their concerns to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC) by a May 19 deadline.

The group, formed as Minnesotans for Pipeline Cleanup, specifically wants Minnesota authorities to set up a trust fund similar to a \$1.3 billion (US) decommissioning fund established in Canada to cover abandonment costs along the Canadian side of the border for the Enbridge pipeline.

This has never been done in the United States. "This would be new ground for Minnesota and the US," said Paul Blackburn, a Minneapolis attorney representing the Calloway-based Honor the Earth organization, noting that such backup funds are in place for other potential costly energy project abandonments such as oil wells and nuclear power plants.

The new Line 3 runs 337 miles across Northern Minnesota, sometimes on and other times near Minnesota's northern tribal nations and their lands. It brings oil from Alberta province to Superior, Wis.

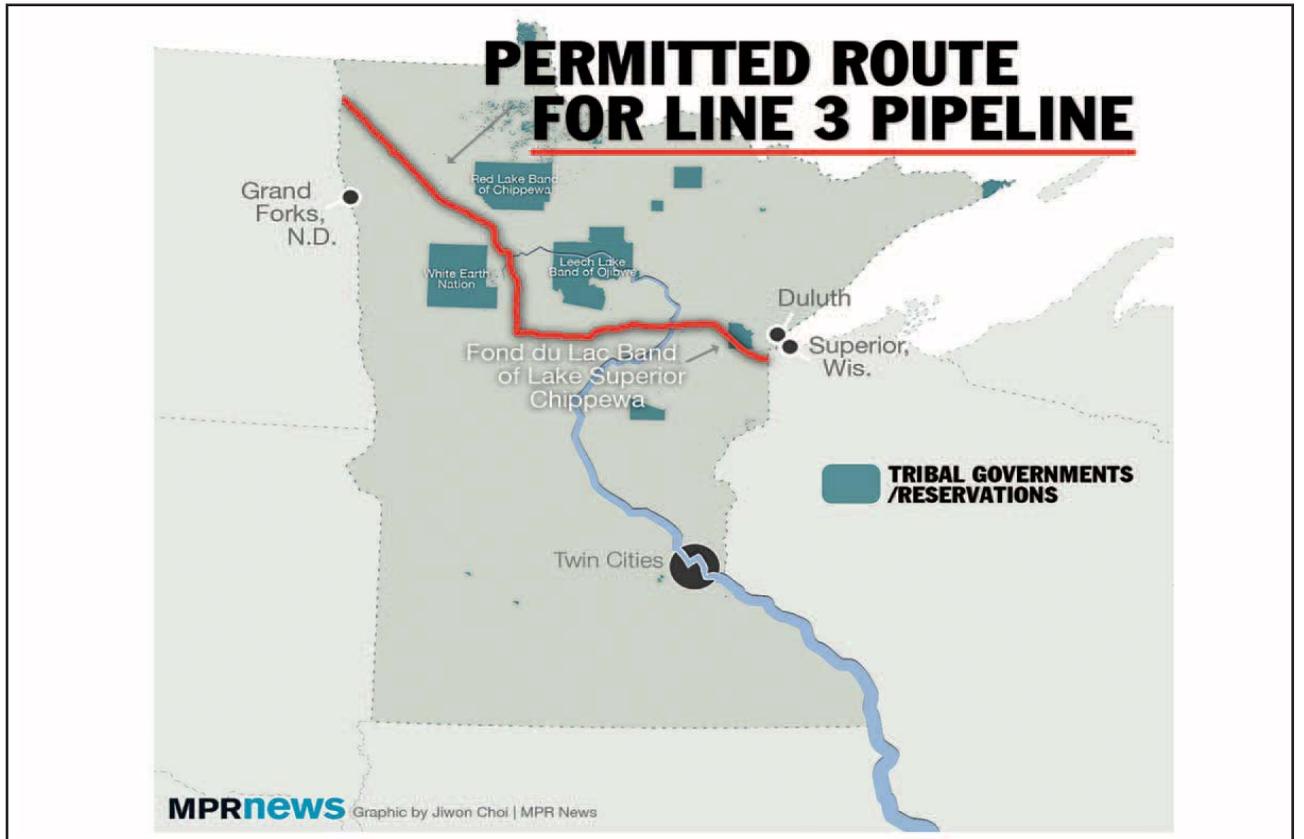
There may be as many as 1,000 individual landowners along that route in addition to tribes, a spokesman for Minnesotans for Pipeline Cleanup said. The group fears that many are unaware of PUC's call for comments or that the deadline is fast approaching.

"There are no working models for what PUC is looking at," Blackburn said. But what is known, he added, is that cleanup and abandoned pipeline removal costs can be as great as "building the line in the first place."

The PUC called for public comments late last year for how much funding the Canadian energy company Enbridge should have set aside for a possible pipeline abandonment. This process is called Docket CN-21-823.

Some landowners, however, doubt word of this procedure reached all potentially affected or that anyone knows what costs may pass down to their property if the pipeline is abandoned.

In filings with the federal government, Blackburn said, Enbridge acknowledged it could close the line in as short as 20 years.



A map of the route for the Line 3 oil pipeline replacement project. (Illustration by Jiwon Choi / MPR News.)

"The risks, and costs, could be substantial," Blackburn said in a statement for the group. Abandoning the 36-inch pipeline could cause sinkholes, road collapses, water drainage problems, soil erosion and residential contamination, he said.

Dave Douglas, a landowner at Carlton near the Fond du Lac reservation, said if there isn't a large enough trust fund created in Minnesota, ultimate costs could be huge for the state, counties, cities and landowners "when Enbridge walks away."

"Landowners, not Enbridge, should have final say in what happens on their land after abandonment," he said.

Tribes also have a stake even when the new Line 3 doesn't cross tribal land, said Joe Plumer, tribal attorney for the Red Lake Nation.

"It crosses the ceded lands from our treaties," he

said. "We have gathering rights on those lands."

That means Red Lake and other Ojibwe citizens in the affected area have various hunting, fishing and wild rice rights in those lands and waters.

That natural bounty is threatened by the pipeline and its eventual abandonment, he said. "That's why we've been opposing this project all along."

Minnesotans for Pipeline Cleanup said people wanting to comment to the PUC must include docket number (21-823). It can be filed online to www.mn.gov/ouc/consumers/public-comments or by email at publicadvisor.puc@state.mn.us.

Comments may also be mailed to Public Advisor, Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, 121 7th Place East, Suite 350, St. Paul, MN 55101.

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Yazzie makes debut feature film set in the Twin Cities

A Winter Love follows the story of Blue, a struggling Native artist getting by on odd jobs, music and teaching gigs. When Blue falls in love with a younger guy, Eddie, from another tribe, we get a window into a story most audiences have not seen portrayed on the screen: intimate moments of love between two Native American characters that is not steeped in trauma or loss and the intertribal comraderies and rivalries that you can only be a fly on the wall to hear.

It is a side of the Twin Cities that we have yet to see from a community that is often at the mercy of screenwriters, directors, and producers in the entertainment industry who have their own agendas and motivations for making work about Native Americans.

This is the first film by director, Rhiana Yazzie (Navajo), an acclaimed playwright who has been under the radar winning national accolades like the 2020 Steinberg and 2021 Lanford Wilson playwriting awards, and locally as a McKnight, Jerome, and Bush Fellow. Those familiar with her work know she is responsible for creating and running the Midwest's most frequently producing Native theater company, New Native Theatre. The film features many of the theater's actors and others from the larger Twin Cities theater community. A strong characteristic of *A Winter Love* is that the story reveals complicated characters through beautiful photography and of course dialogue, another telltale sign of Yazzie's roots as a playwright.

This is the first starring role for Yazzie and her co-star, Brian Watson who plays Eddie, and hails from the Leech Lake Ojibwe community. The cast is



Rhiana Yazzie and Brian Watson star in *A Winter Love*, which is showing during the Minneapolis St. Paul International Film Festival. This is Yazzie's first film and she also has a lead role. (Photo courtesy of Rhiana Yazzie.)

rounded out with other locals like Payton Counts who is Turtle Mountain Ojibwe, Ho-Chunk youth actor, Anne-Marie Haambiig, and Navajo elder, Lini Wilkins among others. Even Minnesota Lt. Governor, Peggy Flanagan and radio personality Tom Weber make a cameo. Boston native, Chris Trapper of the popular 90s Indy band, The The Push Stars, plays Ruben, a folks-singer turned real estate manager.

The original music in *A Winter Love* was written by Mille Lacs Ojibwe musician, Leah Lemm, and the score is provided by Yazzie's sister's (Tiana Yazzie)

group, Animals in the Dark, who bring an edgy girl-punk-band vibe to the film's score. Animation is by Ojibwe artist, Moira Villiard.

The movie features sets filmed in Minneapolis businesses and organizations like Powwow Grounds Coffee, The Moose on Monroe, and pre-2020 Lake Street where The Division of Indian Work stood between two buildings that would be destroyed during the 2020 George Floyd summer of unrest.

On top of all the other hats Yazzie wears in this project, she also self-produced and financed this film with

Boozhoo, Fond du Lac Band members!

My name is **Rob Abramowski**, and I am a candidate for the Secretary/Treasurer for our Band. I am reaching out to you, the voters, to let you know what **my plans and goals for FDL** are if elected. A summary of my plan is listed below.

- Focus on Accountability and Transparency regarding the RBC's activity (producing minutes and posting of minutes in a prompt manner to include RBC vote details, posting the agenda before meetings for band member comment periods)
- Develop/present resolution for Term Limits to be decided by the Band Members (per referendum),
- Develop/present resolution to promote Fairness and Consistency for upcoming candidates running for office by providing eligible voter list by district and at large.
- Develop/present resolutions with regard to Community Board Members to make them elected positions (housing, school, land use, reservation and ceded territory)
- To work with Community, Housing, and Human Services to develop policies with regard to Child Welfare (ICWA) to Focus on creating a

strong support for Parents/Grandparents who are struggling so we keep families together to the greatest extent feasible.

- Develop/Present a resolution to Revise the current Procurement/Purchasing policy to give opportunity and preference to Band member owned businesses to offer pricing first then opening to others after that.
- Create a space in the Otter Creek Convention Center with Military Service Plaques and Portraits to honor our veterans.
- Bring together Elders, parents and children through community activities at outdoor recreational spaces: trails for walking, biking and lake and shoreline improvement.
- Work with band members and RBC members to create and set aside land for a FDL Family Recreational Park and to improve hunting trails.

I humbly request your vote for Secretary/Treasurer on June 14, 2022. Please don't hesitate to contact me to discuss anything in this letter or any suggestions, issues or concerns you have. Scan the QR for more detailed information. Request your absentee ballot at FDLGeneralElectionBoard@fdlrez.com

Thank you.

Rob Abramowski
(218)591-6312
VoteRob2022@gmail.com



support from the Sundance Indigenous Program and The Tiwahe Foundation. When Indy film, *A Stray*, was shot in Minnesota, Yazzie was part of the crew as a production coordinator. "I saw how an entire film could be produced with a relatively small crew, it made me think, this is just like the kind of theater I've been producing for years. So, why not produce a film? I've often had to open my own doors as a Native female artist, I didn't think twice about not waiting years for someone else to decide to produce my screenplay." In November 2021, *A Winter Love* premiered at the Chinese Theater in Los Angeles in the LA Skins fest and won its Achievement in Directing award.

It has been making the global indigenous film festival circuit with appear-

ances at the Wairoa Maori Film Festival, Richmond, Virginia's Pocahontas Reframed Festival, the Quetzalcoatl Indigenous Film Festival in Oaxaca, Mexico, and later this month it will make its Canadian debut at the DreamSpeakers Indigenous Film Festival.

Key crew include BAFTA award winning Director of Photography, Ryan Eddleston (*Good Posture*, *Black Mountain Poets*) and Editor, Farrah Drabu (*Ill Manors*).

Minnesotans can catch *A Winter Love* when it premieres in the MSP International Film Festival on May 7 in Minneapolis and on May 15 in Rochester. Tickets are available online at <https://mspfilm.org>.



Rhiana Yazzie and Brian Watson in a scene from the film. (Photo courtesy of Rhiana Yazzie.)

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Snowsnake building workshop leads to the next snowsnake season

BY DAN NINHAM

Although there were still patches of snow in northern Minnesota in late April the snowsnake season is over. However, the prime time to make snowsnakes may be at this time during the maple sugar season when the trees are green and have sap in them.

The nonprofit Manidoo Ogitigaan, directed by Zac Earley (White Earth Ojibwe) and Kaitlyn Grenier of Bemidji, MN, organized a snowsnake building gathering in Bemidji in late February that brought together various levels of snowsnake interests. Manidoo Ogitigaan, translated to be the Spirit Garden, is one of the leaders in Ojibwe language and cultural revitalization with grassroots community efforts that's expanding their reach (<https://www.manidooogitigaan.org>).

"I am interested in snowsnakes as a part of our Anishinaabe culture," Earley said. "I am new to snowsnakes although I have heard of it before. Madeline Island was the first time playing. We look to our culture and way of life to bring about positive change."

Snowsnake is a medicine game

"Snowsnake is a medicine game for heal-



Everyone is busy at the Snowsnake Building Workshop at the Rail River Folk School in Bemidji, MN in late February 2022. (Photo by Dan Ninham.)

ing so we sought out knowledgeable people to share their knowledge with us and the community. Our goal is to help strengthen our communities by supporting culture and language," said Earley.

"Snowsnake historically was played by many tribes each with unique stories and teachings about snowsnake. In our Ojibwe belief the ginebig, translated as "snake" in Ojibwemowin, is a guardian of medicine and is a healer. So I've had a special interest in the game before I've ever played," Earley

added.

The snowsnake game has evolved in north central Minnesota Ojibwe country. Not only in appearance but also in how it is played. The type of snowsnake that was built at Bemidji workshop had an eastern influence with pouring a melted metallic substance in the snowsnake head. This is consistent with Iroquoian-type snowsnakes. Some surfaces have used the ridge with a path cut through it while others have showed a wide path on the ice and even others

threw on the frozen top crust.

Looking at the archives of the Minnesota Historical Society, there are images of snowsnakes from over a hundred years ago. Nowadays there are several different types and lengths of snowsnakes in Minnesota, including painted branches, long and short slender pieces of wood with or without lead in the end or on the head, and flattened pieces of wood without lead often cut from a school's wood shop.

Historians have published images and writings about Ojibwe snowsnakes as early as 1860 by J.G. Kohl in "Kitchi-Gami: Wanderings round Lake Superior." Others have claimed the beginning of snowsnakes started 400 to 600 years ago but indigenous people don't put a date on the origin.

Everyone made their own snowsnake

Earley said the snowsnake workshop was very important because it allowed people the opportunity to work with tools and each other to learn about making their own snowsnake. First language Ojibwe and Cree speaking Anishinaabekwe elder Mary Moose shared language and a story about the snowsnake. Earley is in the process of transcribing and translating her story.

Moose brought her snowsnake that appeared to about five feet long and had metallic substances on the bottom of the



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Four carved unfinished pieces of wood used in the Ojibwe game of "snowsnakes" in which contestants attempted to skid their snake the farthest across the snow. (Photo courtesy of Minnesota Historical Society.)

head. She said it was over 150 years old and was her great grandfathers. Moose's home territory is at Fort Albany First Nation in eastern Ontario near the western border of Quebec. This is directly north of Iroquois country and may have been an influence in having lead in the snowsnake head.

Kevin Finney was one of the leaders in the snowsnake building workshop. He is the director of his own nonprofit based in Hopkins, MI called the Great Lakes Lifeways Institute. His longtime wood-working and craftsman friend was Frank Sprague, Gun Lake tribal member, who both have made several trips not only to the Red Lake Nation but throughout the country sharing their trades.

"My first experience with snowsnakes was when we took some community members from Ponemah to Madeline Island," Grenier said. "We loved it, and wanted to have a snowsnake game and workshop closer to home, especially after Bob Shimek, a Red Lake band member, shared the Ojibwe legend of snowsnakes with us. Bob has been working with Ojibwe snowsnakes for 30 years."

Way more than a workshop

Veronica Smith (Fond du Lac Ojibwe) became interested in snowsnake games when she saw it played in other communities. She and Mary Moose attended the workshop. "I began asking members in my community if this would be something they would be interested in doing in our own community."

"The workshop started in a good way, we smudged every day and throughout the day songs were sung while other organizers prepared a meals," said Smith. "We all worked on our snakes at our own pace, Kevin and Frank were always there to answer questions and provide assistance."

Smith said about the snowsnake building workshop: "The three days went by quickly. It felt good to be in company of knowledgeable and respected relatives from Indian country. The teachings, food, teasing and laughter is what I've missed the last couple of years. I am hoping to bring a workshop like this to Nagaajiwanaang (Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Ojibwe) next winter. These types of winter activities are healthy mentally and physically."

Thomas Howes (Eagle Clan from the Fond du Lac Ojibwe) lives in Duluth. He



Zac Earley (left) and Bob Shimek prepare to melt the lead to be put into the snowsnake head. (Photo by Dan Ninham.)



Veronica Smith (left) and Mary Moose with their completed workshop snowsnakes. (Photo by Dan Ninham.)

talked about the snowsnake workshop that was held at the Rail River site in Bemidji, "I've known Kevin (Finney) for a few years, admired his craftsmanship and that drew me to participate in the workshop. I've assisted Bob Shimek with snowsnake events in Fond du Lac over the past decade by preparing the course with my staff at Fond du Lac Natural Resources Program. I've also played the games he's held over here with my family."

"The workshop was well organized and executed, but it was way more than a workshop, it was a gathering of passionate and talented people. The workshop was an opportunity to tell stories, sing, trade, and network on many levels, something that has been limited in the past couple years," added Howes.

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AIM patrol member No Face smudges before starting patrolling at the Pow Wow Grounds parking lot on Franklin Avenue in Minneapolis on April 15. (Photos by Kerem Yücel for MPR News.)



Jackie Neadeau stands outside Little Earth on Sunday, April 10 in Minneapolis.

American Indian Movement chairman Frank Paro has patrolled the Phillips neighborhood. Paro would like Minneapolis police to commit more resources within the police department's 3rd Precinct.

"I'd like to see more ... beat cops," Paro said. "More police athletic leagues, where they're interacting with the youth in the community."

Mike Goze, CEO of American Indian Community Development Corporation, said the city let them know where com-

munity patrols would be most needed during the unrest, along parts of Franklin Avenue. Now he worries about the shortage of officers.

"I think the key for any community is, is presence, you know, you gotta be there," Goze said.

Five minutes of basketball

Sandra Corona, a Little Earth Patrol member, says she would like to see Minneapolis Police return to Little Earth to do more outreach with youth.

"They used to play basketball here," Corona said, "Just that little five or ten minutes makes their day." Corona said.

Inspector Jose Gomez heads the 3rd Precinct where Little Earth is located. Gomez said he's working to re-create partnerships at Little Earth. He said officers used to socialize and learn more about Native American culture.

"We used to do one barbecue a year at Cedar fields, they would have a homework club where the officers would help [kids] with homework," Gomez said. "I want to get back to that. I mean, when is that going to happen? I don't know. But it's a goal of mine to get back where we were."

Jones, the Little Earth protector, said during the unrest a lack of communication on the city's part may have compromised the trust people had in law enforcement. Despite that, she hopes Little Earth residents and Minneapolis Police can begin rebuilding their relationship.

"It's going to be...one step at a time and meeting needs and seeing if getting back to us feeling like they care about us, care about our community, care about our future," Jones said.

"It's easy to break that bond and trust. It's hard to build it."

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The final rules may still need tweaking going forward, she said. She is especially concerned there may be built in barriers for entrepreneurs working from homes – both on and off reservation lands – to getting registered to qualify for government contracting.

Federal programs require contractors to be registered through a System for Award Management, or SAM.gov registration, that identifies them for different federal programs. In the Buy Indian Act program, SAM registration will identify the contractor as a tribal enterprise or an individual Native American entrepreneur.

There is a problem with the way this is designed, Bills said.

People working from home, such as freelance service providers, have trouble getting this designation. And, would-be entrepreneurs living on a reservation, she said, would have a home address the government would consider a tribal location and not the address for a private Native enterprise.

“I can rent an office somewhere in town, and that would get me an approved address. But a lot of people working from home wouldn’t have the ability to do that,” she said.

This goes far beyond the Native American community, Bills added. There has been a great shift in who and where people work during the past two years of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Much more work is being “farmed out” to work-at-home entrepreneurs.

Meanwhile, with the new rules for Buy Indian Act, the Interior Department expects federal Indian Affairs purchases from Native businesses to climb from 59 percent currently to 65 percent, or to \$325 million flowing annually into Indian Country.

In addition, Indian Affairs said it will solicit proposals from Native-owned construction businesses for \$1.5 billion in new nationwide contracts that will cover a range of Interior projects.

Near-term opportunities available for Indian-owned businesses will include professional service contracts for program management, consultant services, business support services, dam and irrigation construction, and architect and engineering services totaling approximately \$750 million dollars.

That could give a big boost to Native-owned enterprises in Minnesota. Standings’ MNIBA group has an online business directory of indigenous-owned and operated businesses at <https://www.mniba.org/programs/business-directory.html>. It includes enterprises in all of the Interior Department’s identified business categories, including 20 Minnesota-based Native construction firms.

Here are sources for more information on the Buy Indian Act and how to qualify for contracting with federal agencies:



Kay Bills has pushed Congress, the federal departments of government, and others over the years to open doors and support programs for Native entrepreneurship. (Photo courtesy of Kay Bills.)

- The first isn’t easy reading unless you have a law degree or experience working with government programs, but the new rules set to go into effect on May 9 can be found at <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2022/04/08/2022-07118/acquisition-regulations-buy-indian-act-procedures-for-contracting>.

ing. The Federal Register article, published April 8 by the Department of Interior, is called Acquisition Regulations; Buy Indian Act; Procedures for Contracting.

- The Indian Health Service has a Fact Sheet on the Buy Indian Act final rule for health-related contractors at <https://www.ihs.gov/newsroom/fact-sheets/buy-indian-act>. It explains, “The intent is to align IHS processes with the Bureau of Indian Affairs in order to facilitate more contracting opportunities for eligible entities under the Buy Indian Act.”

- One of many Internet sites with information on SAM.gov registration is at <https://www.grants.gov/applicants/organization-registration/step-2-register-with-sam.html>.

- A Department of Education site also has useful information on registering with SAM. It can be found at <https://www.grants.gov/applicants/organization-registration/step-2-register-with-sam.html>.

- A bio article on Kay Bills published in the Daily Oklahoman in 2021 is at <https://www.oklahoman.com/story/special/special-sections/2021/04/08/outlook-osage-woman-advises-tribes-federal-contracts/4730930001>.

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Comes Flying twins lead state champion Bantam B1 PLSHA

Chaske and Cuauhtli Comes Flying are in the ninth grade at Prior Lake High School. The twin brothers are Crow Creek Dakota and play Bantam B1 Hockey. They are also members of the first Bantam team to win a state championship in Prior Lake Savage Hockey Association (PLSHA) history. The team had a 51-4-3 record. The brothers both scored 25 goals that was two games short of 60 for the long season. Chaske had 49 assists for 74 points and Cuauhtli had 26 assists for 51 points.

The team were runner-up in the District 6 playoffs, and placed first in the South Regions playoffs on their way to the State Championship Bantam B1 tournament. The twins earned individual and team accomplishments. Chaske won a “Playmaker” badge for setting up the most plays all season and Cuauhtli shared the “Hat Trick” badge with a teammate for having three plus hat tricks for the season.

Their dad, Antony Stately (Oneida and Ojibwe) has the responsibility to teach his sons their native core values on and off the ice. Chaske talked first about his role model Dad, “My dad is always saying, ‘your most important job is to be a good relative to everyone.’ As a young Dakota man, being a good relative is important to me. I try to remember this when I practice and compete. I prioritize setting up my teammates for success over my own individual success. We win together as a team, and we grow together from our mistakes and losses.”

Cuauhtli added similar thoughts, “I try to be a good teammate, and help everyone on the team out. It’s my way of being a good relative to everyone. And I work hard and push through, and I don’t give up when



Chaske (left) and Cuauhtli Comes Flying were on the Prior Lake Savage Hockey Team that won the 2022 State Bantam B1 Hockey Championship. (Photo by Bob Trench.)

things get hard.”

The twins have native role model hockey athletes they admire. Chaske said, “I look up to Jayson Shaugabay. He really inspires me because he is Native and he is an amazing player. Like me, he passes the puck a lot and makes plays, and he is a leader.”

Cuauhtli talked about his positive role models, “I want to be like Daimon Gardner when I get older, because he’s a really good player and he never gives up! Matt Dumba inspires me because he is a great player, and he supports getting more native kids and kids of color getting into hockey. He helps me to imagine being a professional player someday.”

Chaske talked about his positive mentors that are also his coaches. He said, “I look up to my head coach, Brian George. He pushes me every day to be a better hockey player, and he treats us with respect. Assistant Coach John Tushie wouldn’t just point out my mistakes, he would also help me correct them and improve my game.”

“When I was evaluating the players during the first month of the season I noticed they possessed great hockey sense, a hard work ethic, and a level of competitiveness that can’t be taught,” said Head Coach Brian George. “I always heard that twins have an understanding between them that is hard to comprehend but I had the pleasure of seeing it live game after game. Their offensive creativity and hockey sense is something special to watch between each other.”

Losing early in the tournament made the team hungry to compete to come back to win the championship.

“When we lost the District 6 Championship against Chaska-Chanhassen, we lost our first game against them and then had to come up through the loser’s bracket to get into the championship game,” said Chaske. “And we lost against them in the final minutes of the third period. After that I felt defeated and started to doubt my and the team’s ability.”

Chaske talked for both him and his brother about off-season conditioning and performance camps. He said, “We’re going to do some off-season hockey performance camps, and we’re going to hit the gym and workout, focusing on some strength and endurance training so that we can be in our best shape for the fall. We are looking forward to trying out for a spot on the high school hockey team next year!”

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This project described was supported by Grant Number 90EV0459-02-00 from the Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Family and Youth Services Bureau, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The opinions, findings, conclusions and recommendations expressed in this publication are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Family and Youth Services Bureau, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

POLITICAL MATTERS: Native Issues in the Halls of Government – by Mordecai Specktor

editor@ajwnews.com

George Morrison postage stamps

April 22 was the First Day of Issue for U.S. postage stamps honoring the accomplished Ojibwe artist George Morrison (1919-2000). Many readers likely have seen Morrison's beautiful wood collages that evoke the landscapes around Lake Superior. The U.S. commemorative stamps feature five of Morrison's colorful, abstract paintings of northern landscapes.

There was an affecting ceremony held at Grand Portage Lodge and Casino, which included Morrison's widow, Hazel Belvo; tribal officials; museum curators; and U.S. Postal Service officials. Morrison was a member of the Grand Portage Band.

I recall seeing Morrison on one occasion: the opening night of the 1980 Foot in the Door show at the Minneapolis Institute of Art. This participatory art exhibition, which takes place every 10 years, is open to all comers; the only rule is that an artwork must fit through a one-foot by one-foot wooden frame. My submission, in red crayon on paper, declared "FREE LEONARD PELTIER," with some brief explanation about the imprisoned AIM activist.

I attended the opening wearing a large button with the same message that I wrote on my artwork, and at one point I was standing near Morrison, who seemed interested in the young white man bearing the political message. That's my brush with artistic greatness.

You can watch the George Morrison Forever Stamp ceremony from Grand Portage on YouTube at: bit.ly/morrison-stamp.

Environmental lawyer freed

The situation for Indigenous tribes in South America today resembles the state of repression experienced by Native people in North America in the 19th century. Regimes in Brazil and other nations work on behalf of multinational corporations to clear tribal lands and plunder oil and mineral resources. Those who protest against the corporate ravagers do so at great personal risk. Massacres of Indigenous activists are not a rare occurrence.

And North American activists also can face severe consequences for their work on behalf of tribes in the global south. Such is the bizarre case of environmental lawyer Steven Donziger, who successfully sued Chevron for polluting tribal lands of 30,000 Indigenous people in Ecuador's Amazon region. Over many years, Chevron dumped 16 billion gallons of oil on tribal ancestral lands; and, in 2011, Ecuador's Supreme Court ordered the oil giant to pay \$18 billion

(later reduced to \$9.5 billion) in a landmark ruling to hold corporate polluters to account. (The original lawsuit was against Texaco, which was purchased by Chevron in 2000. The case dragged on for 18 years.)

However, as Amy Goodman pointed out in a recent episode of the radio show Democracy Now!, "Chevron refused to pay or clean up the land. Instead, it launched a legal attack on the ruling, targeting Steven Donziger."

In a case that defies the common understanding of legal justice, Chevron went after Donziger in the U.S. courts, eventually getting him disbarred and confined to house arrest for 993 days. On April 25, the lawyer was finally released from house arrest.

"Chevron tried to use me as what I would say is a weapon of mass distraction, so people wouldn't focus on the environmental crimes they committed in Ecuador," Donziger told Goodman and co-host Juan González. "This goes way beyond me, because, ultimately, if we allow this type of private corporate prosecution – I was prosecuted, by the way, not by the U.S. government, which rejected the charges against me that were filed by a federal judge, who then appointed a private law firm that had Chevron as a client. And that was my prosecutor, which explains this extraordinary length of detention for a misdemeanor. You know, I was in detention 993 days for a misdemeanor crime. I assert my innocence, but even if I were guilty, the maximum sentence is 180 days. So why was I in for 993 days?"

Donziger explained that "there were a lot of irregularities here that we plan to challenge and try to correct. But, ultimately, this was really about a corporate capture, I believe, of an element of our federal judiciary in retaliation for my work. And that's a playbook that I think the industry – the fossil fuel industry, that is – plans to continue to use against lawyers and activists who are a little too successful" in their work on behalf of the victims of environmental despoliation.

The Donziger saga also was covered at length on the tech website Gizmodo. You can read the article at: bit.ly/gizmodo-donziger.

In an interview with Gizmodo, Donziger commented: "I am exhilarated to be able to live fully again, extremely excited to be able to make the normal choices people in a free society get to make. I'm also stunned that I just spent two years and seven months of my life in detention in retaliation for my work in the climate justice field."

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American Indian Month Calendar

Runs thru November 27 Alexandra Buffalohead: Shifting the Perspective

How do museum narratives obscure some histories in preference of telling others? In her installation, guest curator Alexandra Buffalohead (Bdewakantowan Dakhóta, Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate) examines this dynamic through the prism of Indigenous history and knowledge. Placing the James J. Hill presentation tray (Tiffany and Co., 1884) in dialogue with Native artworks, Buffalohead offers a more complex and accurate framing of the history of St. Anthony Falls and Wita Wanagi (Spirit Island), a spiritual site for Dakhóta people; the island, which remained even as the Falls became a hub for logging, milling, and transportation, was removed in 1960 by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' creation of the lock and dam. In doing so, she provides a corrective lens that transcends and enriches Mia's presentation of the past. Minneapolis Institute of Art, 2400 Third Avenue South, Minneapolis. For info contact: 888-642-2787 or visit@artsmia.org.

May 5 - 8 2022 MMIW Virtual Event

The MMIW Virtual event is a race at your own pace and place. You can run, walk, bike, hike; basically, any movement anywhere. The mission is to be in solidarity with Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two-Spirits, grieving families, and individuals working on the frontlines to end this epidemic of

violence against Indigenous people. \$35. 12am to 11:59pm. Registration ends May 4. We are hosting this event to raise awareness and to benefit MMIW USA and the Native Women's Association of Canada. For info, see: <https://www.native-womenrunning.com/events>.

**May 6
2022 Indian Law Conference**
Empowering Attorneys, Advocates and Tribal Leaders. National and local experts provide the latest updates and guidance on legal and policy developments affecting Indian tribes, tribal businesses, tribal members and Indian lawyers. Topics include: Environmental Advocacy Update, Tribal Economic Development Update, Sports Betting and Tribal Rights, Fundamentals of Practicing in Tribal Court, and more. Live in person event (also includes live simulcast streaming). Minnesota CLE Conference Center, 600 Nicollet Mall, Suite 370, Seventh St. & Nicollet Mall, Third Floor, City Center, Minneapolis. Cost: \$275 MSBA members; \$275 MAIBA members, \$275 paralegals, \$325 standard rate. For info, see: <https://www.minncle.org/seminar/1038342201>

**May 6 (deadline)
Watermark Call for Art**
Watermark's Call for Art: Umbrellas of Unity - An art installation to honor and celebrate cultural diversity. Silk and Batik artist Mary Therese invites artists to submit umbrella

design concepts reflecting the theme of "Unity" as part of a juried exhibition at Watermark Art Center that will open on August 19. Selected artists will be provided with fabric paint, and a 62" (arch) - 8 panel white nylon umbrella to create their artwork for the August show. Design can be continuous or as separate panels. Watermark galleries are free and open to the public Monday - Saturday from 10am to 5pm and located at 505 Bemidji Avenue N. in Bemidji. Masks are optional for exhibit visitors. See applications at: watermarkartcenter.org/call-for-art-umbrellas-of-unity.

**May 6 & 19
"Blue" Movie**
Blue is a 35 year-old Navajo singer-songwriter, struggling in Minneapolis' bleak winter. Her creativity seems to be hibernating, thanks to a series of awful relationships and the general mood of the season. But when she meets Eddie, a 25 year-old Lakota man, and law school dropout, he could be just the tonic for her winter blues. Self-described as "A modern day, inter-tribal, love story that shows true love is found in the season you love yourself," A Winter Love is a romantic drama filmed in Minnesota. Director Rhiana Yazzie (Navajo) is an award-winning playwright, director, filmmaker, and the Artistic Director of New Native Theatre in the Twin Cities. The film is part of the Minneapolis St Paul International Film Festival. Showings: May 7 at The Main 2, 4pm. May 15: Gray Duck Theater & Coffeehouse,

4:30pm. For more info, see: <https://mspfilm.org>.

**May 7
Little Earth's Mother's Day Traditional Powwow**
Grand Entry at 1pm and 7pm (tentative schedule). MC: Jerry Dearly. Host drum: Little Earth Singers. Co-host drum: Hoka Hey. Bring your own powwow chair. Cedar Park, 2500 Cedar Ave S, Minneapolis. For info, call 612-286-9963.

**May 7
Bring Her Home**
Three Indigenous women - an artist, an activist, and a politician - fight to vindicate and honor their missing and murdered relatives who have fallen victims to human trafficking, a growing epidemic across Indian country. Bring Her Home is a stunning documentary from Leya Hale, a member of the Sisseton Wahpeton Dakota and Diné Nations. As she follows these three women on their quest for justice, she also examines the women as individuals and members of their community, as they strive to heal from the lasting effects of historical trauma, and navigate the racist systems that helped perpetuate these crimes. Director Leya Hale will be attending. She directed the documentary, The People's Protectors (2018), as well as the short film "Everybody Belongs... Out of the Basement" (2010) and the television documentary Reclaiming Sacred Tobacco (2016). Part of the Minneapolis St Paul International Film Festival. The

Main 2, 1:30pm. For more info, see: <https://mspfilm.org>.

**May 9-12
National Tribal Public Health Summit**
The National Indian Health Board 2022 National Tribal Public Health Summit will be virtual. NIHB is excited to highlight the important public health work happening in Indian Country. Each year, the Summit features dozens of engaging breakout sessions that inform and inspire the critical public health work for our People. Tribes for Tribes. This year's summit will focus on six topic areas: Decolonizing Public Health, COVID-19 and Vaccines, Tribal Public Health Infrastructure, Policy and Systems, Climate Change and Environmental Health, Health Promotion and Disease Prevention, and Mental and Behavioral Health. For info, see: <https://web.cvent.com/event/fdeffd47-d4a8-4311-9861-e2e6c69c6fc4/summary?RefId=tphs2022>.

**May 10
American Indian Day on the Hill**
The Minnesota Indian Affairs Council and the Urban Indian Advisory Board are hosting American Indian Day on the Hill. This event will serve to connect members of the American Indian community with elected tribal and state officials, with the goal of engaging in a dialogue about the civic engagement process and to provide American Indian persons

interested in pursuing a political career with the tools and connections they can utilize in pursuing elected office. Networking, speakers, meals provide, drum group, tribal and urban organization tabling. Everyone welcome. Guest speakers include President Deuce Larsen, Lt. Governor Peggy Flanagan, Senator Mary Kunes, Jessie Stomski Seim, and Dr. Joe Hobot, and others. The drum group from the American Indian Family Center, Imnizaska will perform. A light breakfast and lunch will be provided. 9am to 2:30pm. Minnesota State Capitol, The L'Etoile du Nord Vault, Room B15, Minnesota State Capitol, St Paul. For info, contact Marisa Miakonda Cummings at 612-728-2098 or Kaytlyn at 218-205-4752.

**May 10 (deadline)
EIS on Prairie Island nuclear spent fuel changes comments**
The public is invited to comment on final supplemental environmental impact statement for Prairie Island nuclear spent fuel changes proposed by Xcel Energy. The Minnesota Department of Commerce is inviting the public to comment on the adequacy of the final supplemental environmental impact statement (SEIS) that Commerce has prepared for Xcel Energy's proposed change in spent fuel storage technology at the Prairie Island Nuclear Plant. Comments from the public will be accepted through May 10. Comments on the adequacy of the final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement can be sent to

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the project environmental review manager, Ray Kirsch, by mail or email: Ray Kirsch, Minnesota Department of Commerce, 85 7th Place E., #280, St. Paul, MN 55101, or raymond.kirsch@state.mn.us. The final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement is available online: On the PUC's website at gov/puc, select eDockets, enter the year (08) and the docket number (510), and select Search. Or on Commerce's website: gov/commerce/energyfacilities, select Power Plants, and then select Prairie Island Nuclear Plant Spent Fuel Storage. For info, see: mn.gov/commerce/media.

May 11 Native American Library Panel

The Importance of Representation and Accurate Dissemination. Attendance is on a first come first serve basis on the night of and google meet allows 100 attendees. Contributors: Marcie Rendon, (Moderator) Author; Janice Kowemy, Program Specialist Indigenous Nations Library Program at the University of New Mexico; Debbie Reese, Founder of American Indian Children's Literature Blog; Carrie Cornelius, Librarian at Haskell Indian Nations University; Allison Waukau, Community Liaison at Hennepin County Library; Basweve Gayle (Host), American Indian Education Program Specialist, White Bear Lake Area Schools ISD 624. 6:30-7:30pm with 30 minutes of Q&A time. Google Meet info: Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/xjvpry-boa>. Or dial: (US) +1 413-561-0126, PIN: 482 784 750#. 1 CEU for cultural competency. For info, contact sheri.gayle@isd624.org.

May 12 Business Plan Overview for Indigenous & BIPOC Entrepreneurs

The American Indian OIC (AIOIC) will host "Business Plan Overview for Indigenous & BIPOC Entrepreneurs" with Pamela Standing, Director of Minnesota Indigenous Business Alliance (MNIBA). The virtual 1.5 hour event will share an overview of the function of a business plan while identifying critical components that Indigenous & BIPOC entrepreneurs may want to consider including in their plan for increased chances at success. This is for new business ideas, existing businesses, and expanding businesses to meet a new opportunity. Free and open to Indigenous and BIPOC Artists, Food Producers, and Entrepreneurs. 5pm to 6:30pm CST via Zoom. Register by May 9 at <https://forms.gle/5BNPm1YE2taqF1H8>.

May 12 Mary Ann Key Book Club

Join the Mary Ann Key Book Club for a community discussion of "An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States for Young People". Hear from Native American community leaders Sharon Day, Marlena Myles, Dr. Katie Phillips, Pearl Walker-Swaney, and Ramona Kitto Stately. Join the Mary Ann Key Book Club and columnist Myron Medcalf for a special panel discussion of "An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States for Young People." The panel discussion will conclude with a live Q&A session. The Mary Ann Key Book Club is brought to you by Hennepin County Library in collaboration with columnist Myron Medcalf and the Star Tribune, and receives financial support from

Friends of the Hennepin County Library. 7pm. Register at: <https://bit.ly/may12mak>.

May 13 & 20 New Paintings, Old Stories

AICHO is thrilled to host painter Carl Gawboy, (Bois Forte Ojibwe/Finnish descent) in our AICHO Galleries with a series of brand new – never-before-seen work created in 2020 and 2021! The exhibition will include a collection of over 30 watercolor, acrylics and ink washes that feature Anishinaabe and Finnish cultural life, landscapes and spiritual teachings. Every Friday until May 27. Carl Gawboy will be hosting on May 13, and May 20, from 4pm to 6pm. Dr. Robert Powless Cultural Center, 212 W 2nd St. (enter through 202 entrance). Admission is Free. Due to COVID-19, we are limiting the number of visitors to 20 at any given time. AICHO requires face masks. For info, see: <http://www.aicho.org/carl-gawboy-2022.html#>.

May 14 Native American Heritage health fair

Join us for this health fair to honor Native American Heritage month with Native American organizations sharing health resources with the community. Enjoy an opening ceremony, teepee with storytelling for the kids, Native American book giveaway, and a drum instructor with dancers. There will also be dental, diabetes and blood pressure screenings. Free and open to the public. 10am to 2pm. Brookdale Park, 7650 June Ave N, Brooklyn Park. Partners: Indian Health Board Clinic, United Healthway, Hennepin County Public Health. For info, see: <https://www.brooklynpark.org/even>

t/native-american-heritage-event.

May 16-17 National Tribal Tobacco Conference

This conference will address the traditional uses of tobacco and commercial tobacco impact in American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) communities across the United States. A disparate proportion of AI/AN communities use commercial tobacco compared to other racial/ethnic groups in the United States. High prevalences of commercial tobacco use among AI/AN Tribes are directly reflected in the disproportionate rates of chronic diseases in AI/AN populations. There is an urgent need to bring Tribes together at a national level to educate one another on successes and setbacks in commercial tobacco prevention and control among AI/ANs. The conference will emphasize AI/AN persons returning to a healthy relationship with tobacco, the importance of creating health equity, and provide an opportunity for networking and collaboration. You may change your method of attendance (virtual or in person) until Thursday, May 12, as space allows. Registration closes May 8. The in person attendee rate is \$50 and the virtual attendee rate is \$20. For info, contact 612-624-7552 or mcevents@umn.edu Or see: <https://nttc.umn.edu>

May 17 Robin Wall Kimmerer and Diane Wilson

Featuring Robin Wall Kimmerer, New York Times best-selling author of Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants, in Conversation

with Dakota author of The Seed Keeper, Diane Wilson. Wilson is an award-winning Dakota author whose new novel, The Seed Keeper, was published in 2021 by Milkweed Editions. Her memoir, Spirit Car: Journey to a Dakota Past, won a 2006 Minnesota Book Award and was selected for the 2012 One Minneapolis One Read program. Her nonfiction book, Beloved Child: A Dakota Way of Life, received the Barbara Sudler Award from History Colorado. Wilson's 2020 middle-grade biography: Ella Cara Deloria: Dakota Language Protector, was an Honor selection for the 2022 American Indian Youth Literature Award. Her essays have been featured in many publications, including We Are Meant to Rise; Kinship: Belonging in a World of Relations; and A Good Time for the Truth. 6:00 pm. Cost: Free to U-Card holders / \$12 general admission. Audience Q&A will follow before and after the event. An on-demand viewing option will be available May 18-31. For info, see: <https://ias.umn.edu/events/robin-wall-kimmerer-conversation-diane-wilson>.

May 19 Founders' Day and Career Fair

Celebrate AIOIC and Takoda at the annual Founders' Day Open House and Career Fair. Guests will learn about our education and employment programs, meet hiring managers from 35+ companies, and connect with the community. Lunch, entertainment, and good vibes are provided free of charge. Everyone is welcome. 11am-2pm. American Indian OIC, 1845 East Franklin Ave, Minneapolis. For info, see: <https://www.facebook.com/events/>

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May 19 Community Conversations

Join us as we continue the conversation about the future of the Upper Lock at Owamniyomni, St. Anthony Falls. In a roundtable format, we'll ask: What can this place become? What can and should happen here? What are the unique opportunities of this place that support our goal of restoring a story disrupted? In-person attendees: Event will be hosted at Treasure Island Resort & Casino, Chief Wabasha ballroom. Enter through the hotel. Food and beverage provided, as well as raffle giveaways! Virtual attendees: Join the 5-7pm Community Conversation virtually via Zoom. For info, see: <https://thefalls.org>.

May 19 Wanaiguni Hikurus Hajawi 5K Run/Walk

Join us at beautiful Lake Phalen for a FREE family fun 5K Run/Walk Event! As American Indians, we will gather for this 11th annual 5K Run/Walk, to create healing, inspire healthy lifestyles, and take an active stance against Type II diabetes and childhood obesity. Health and wellness is an American Indian tradition and the participants of this 5K will be walking/running with their individual intentions. All levels are encouraged and welcomed to attend. Due to the pandemic, this will be our first in person event, in two years!! 5pm – 8pm. Phalen Regional Park, 1600 Phalen Drive, Saint Paul. For info, see: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/wanaiguni-hikurus-hajawi-5k-runwalk-tickets-289610491777>.

– CONTINUED ON PAGE 14 –

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**May 20 (deadline)
Seeding Cultural Treasures**

Seeding Cultural Treasures is an initiative to nourish and cultivate the landscape of emerging arts and culture organizations run by and for Black, Indigenous, and other People of Color (BIPOC). This initiative is designed to provide between 20-35 unrestricted general operating grants between \$40,000 and \$100,000 and technical assistance support over the next three-and-a-half years (2022-2025) for emerging BIPOC arts and culture organizations. This includes 501(c)(3) and fiscally sponsored organizations, and/or units of the 11 tribal governments in Minnesota. The initial funding round will focus on 501(c)(3) organizations, fiscally sponsored organizations, and/or units of the 11 tribal governments in Minnesota. Proposals due May 20. Awards announced July 21. For

info, see: <https://www.propelnonprofits.org/capacity-building/seed-ing-cultural-treasures>.

**May 20
Making Suicide a Never-Event in Indian Country**

Making Suicide a Never-Event in Indian Country: Understanding the Zero Suicide Framework. Everyone can work together to keep Native people safe and well. Join our virtual Zero Suicide event to learn: the goals of the Zero Suicide framework and what they mean to the health and wellness of Native people; How to identify your own roles in supporting Native people who may be at risk for self-harm; The importance of attention to the language and taboos around talking about loss to suicide for some Tribes; How to develop memorandums of understanding (MOUs) with other community providers to create seamless

safety nets for those at risk of suicide; How Zero Suicide is culturally responsive to Indian Country; How to choose tools that will help you in identifying risk, for clinical and non-clinical care providers and professionals. 10am to 3:30pm. Registration closes May 16. This event will be hosted by Zero Suicide Institute, in partnership with GLITEC. For info, contact Meghan Porter at mporter@glic.org, or see: <https://www.glic.org/event/making-suicide-a-never-event-in-indian-country-understanding-the-zero-suicide-framework-3>.

**May 21
Forward Together**

Friends of the Falls and the Native American Community Development Institute join the City of Minneapolis' Community Connections Conference, centered on the theme 'Forward Together'.

Find The Falls Initiative in the exhibit hall (Minneapolis Convention Center, First Floor, Hall B) from 9am-3pm. Meet the project team, share your input on initial design concepts, and help us consider opportunities to connect to the land at Owámmiyomni and each other. Food and beverage provided! Virtual attendees: While exhibit hall activities are only accessible to in-person guests, we anticipate streaming relevant workshops and panel discussions via Zoom and offering engagement opportunities online. For info, see: <https://thefalls.org>.

**May 21
South of the River
5th Annual Powwow**

Honoring Graduates, Royalty Contest, Lacrosse Event. Free Feast at 5pm. Grand Entry at 1pm and 7pm. Burnsville High School, 600 State Hwy 13, Burnsville, MN.

**May 23 - 25
Fifth Annual Conference on
Native American Nutrition**

From knowledge to practice: Using both Indigenous wisdom and academic research to improve Native American nutrition. This is the only conference series in the world devoted to the food and nutrition of Indigenous peoples. It brings together tribal officials, researchers, practitioners, funders, and others to discuss the current state of Indigenous and academic scientific knowledge about Native nutrition, dietary health and food science, and new areas of work. Mystic Lake Casino Hotel, 2400 Mystic Lake Blvd. NW, Prior Lake. Starts at \$50.00. For more information, see:

www.nativenutrition.umn.edu. For info, contact: james@stagetimeproductions.com.

**May 27-29
Memorial Traditional
Powwow**

Friday: Registration at 5pm, Grand Entry at 6pm. Saturday: Registration at noon and 6pm, Grand Entry at 1pm and 7pm, Supper break at 5pm. Sunday: Registration at noon, Grand Entry at 1pm, Supper break at 4pm. MCs: David Northbird, Wes Jourdain. Host drums: Ojibwe Nation, Brown. Veterans Memorial Pow Wow Grounds, Cass Lake, MN.

**May 28
Native Art and Community**

Join Amber Annis, Director of Native American Initiatives, in a conversation with artists Gordon Coons and Robert Two Bulls. Explore some of the Native art in Art Speaks. What do the works say to and about communities? When does art unite people, and when does it cause divisions? How can art and artists contribute to societal change? What challenges do artists face when reflecting on their communities? Attend this program in-person at the Minnesota History Center. Included with the price of admission. 11am - Noon. Minnesota History Center, 345 W. Kellogg Blvd., St. Paul, MN. For info, contact: 651-259-3015 or boxoffice@mnhs.org, or see: <https://www.mnhs.org/event/9033>

**May 30
Memorial Day Powwow**

Bring the family and join museum staff and community members in this social gathering honoring veter-

ans past and present. Experience firsthand the excitement and joy of a contemporary powwow. Noon - 4:30pm. Free, museum admission not included. Mille Lacs Indian Museum and Trading Post, 43411 Oodena Dr., Onamia, MN. For info, contact 320-532-3632 or millelacs@mnhs.org. For info, see: <https://www.mnhs.org/event/9039>

**June 3
American Indian Magnet
School Pow Wow**

American Indian Magnet School, 1075 3rd St E, St. Paul.

**JUNE 4
Cherish the Children
Traditional Powwow**

AIN DAH YUNG CENTER'S 23rd Annual Cherish the Children Traditional Powwow. 10am to 7pm. Grand Entry at 2pm and 6pm. Harriet Island, 200 Dr Justus Ohage Blvd, St Paul. For info, see: <https://adycenter.org>.

**June 4
Mendota Mdewakanton's
26th Anniversary Fundraiser**

This is not a powwow, but a fundraiser. Noon to 4pm. St. Peter's Church, 1405 Sibley Memorial Hwy, Mendota, MN. For info, contact: Sharon Lennartson at 651-452-4141.

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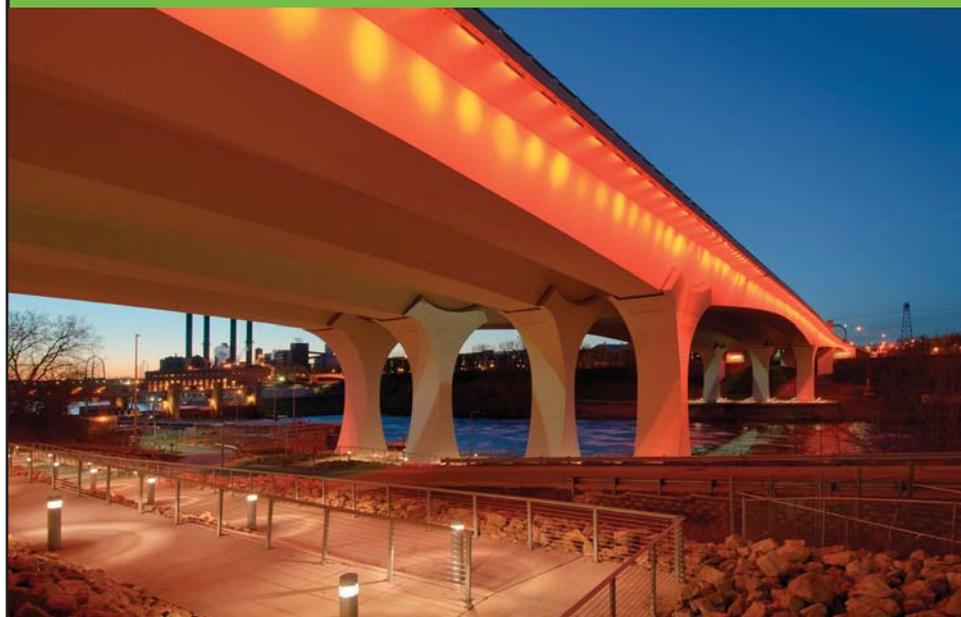
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NOTICE: OPENING of the Studio, One Bedroom, and Two Bedroom Waitlists. Project based Section 8; rent based on income for qualified applicants.

Applications may be downloaded from www.commonbond.org starting at 9AM Monday May 2nd, 2022, until 4PM May 9th, 2022. Completed applications must be received by mail on or before May 16th, 2022.

All qualified applicants will be placed on the Waiting List in the order they are received.

CommonBond Communities Equal Housing Opportunity



(female) with lot's to say, still. When I looked at it I had to laugh. My response was spontaneous. I am far from done yet, squashing colonial lies and capitalism. For a start.

Anyhoo, my friend Anneh and I have some devious machinations and schemes that we are collaborating on. Shh!!! That's all I am saying for now. No one, I mean no one can stop us. We both know people who know people, yo. We may be older but age has only made us bolder. Also, no one shall be spared. Bwahahaha!

Well, that's all I got to make me get out of bed in the morning, other than my Fuzz-butts and a frantic need to pee. I know y'all have had those dreams, kinda terrifying, ennit? They are nightmares actually...okay done with this subject now. I just wanted to share it with all my pre-senior discount friends. I get it now. My Gramma Rose told me to never get old, but here I am repping. Owa!!!

Yanno, I have never gone to sleep wondering just how Indigenous I was that day? All I really do is ask myself is: "Ohh! Who was a Good Girl today?!" I just shrug and try to shut things down. Then in the morning I don't wake up thinking that because I am an Indigenous woman, I am less. No. Not at all.

You see, going around every day being indigeous takes a toll on one's mental, emotional and physical being, especially the spiritual. WE as a people are not even supposed to be living in this time and space. I'm smiling just big right now. The fact is that WE ARE is an active, living, sacred gift from our ancestors.

Their sacrifices have not been wasted. My aim is to not disappoint them but...well, still working on that. Hey look now, we got this far, ennit? I see and follow so many Indigenous people who are out there repping! These amazing people are keeping the cultures alive. With all their talents too much to cite here, but they are not hard to find. Just be sure if you purchase any item it's genuinely Indigenous-made. Fur real.

I had a virtual health visit with my provider the other day. She asked me how I was doing and then the levee's broke. I felt like I was a first mistake pancake with awful, sticky stuff piled on top of me so I felt like I drowned in syrup. Gah! Long sigh. Long tunnel with a light at the end, yanno? Promises, promises.

Now where was I going with this?! Oh right! My medications were adjusted, I did not have to go outside and worry I would break another one of my Styrofoam bones. How cool is that?! I

mean I love technology but for some of us it is a life-saber. (LOL!)

Anyways, since the Fuzz-butts are not battling so much any more I still read the news, and it never fails to depress me how humans are so awful. Some people are grandiose, puppets of whose who have explicit sexual and criminal tape on them. Ya, whatever, this is my opinion.

So anyhoo, whilst I nest in my nest I will be watching but only because I can't not. Calling out you people who have never voted because you don't think it applies to you, personally, or your family. That is oppression. Canceling your vote if you do vote is suppression. Think about it. How do you want your kids to grow up?

Just to reiterate, old people are groovy too. Oh wait! Did I not say that yet?! Being old, I forgot to send a Happy Purrday 60th Purrday to my old friend Angela Kapp.

And, I will be 60 on May 26 this Year of the Tiger. And here I don't look a day over 59! I am not sorry I've lived this long, I'm just astonished. How this came to be I dunno. I spose I'll have to post a new picture for my byline.

To pick up where I left off last month, I was interviewed by Indian Country Today.com via ZOOM. In my estimation it was a success! I did not snort, snort, burp, cry or boogit (fart). Nor did my Fuzz-butt dogs get in the way, except for barking from the bathroom where I stashed them. And just moments before the event Purrrince was all over me, and then he decided to go take a nap. Whew!

What I did not know is that this news segment was about celebrating Women's History Month. Here I was featured with so many accomplished Indigenous women who are phenomenal! They have all distinguished titles and then there was me, a sassy, loud mouth Kwe

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Apartment Name	City	Phone #	Waiting List	Family	Senior 62 + disabled	Bedroom size(s)
<i>Waiting lists change and may be open. Please call the property to inquire.</i>						
Albright Townhomes	Minneapolis	612-824-6665	closed	X		1, 2
Bell Lofts	Minneapolis	612-345-4515	N/A		X	1, 2, 3
Chancellor Manor	Burnsville	952-435-7111	closed	X		1, 2, 3
Cornerstone Creek Apartments	Golden Valley	763-231-6250	N/A		X	1, 2
<i>For developmentally disabled individuals.</i>						
Dale Street Place	St. Paul	651-224-7665	closed		X	efficiency & 1
Diamond Hill Townhomes	Minneapolis	612-726-9341	closed	X		2, 3
East Town Apartments	Minneapolis	612-339-5969	N/A	X		efficiency, 1, 2, 3
Elliot Park Apartments	Minneapolis	612-338-3106	open	X		2, 3
Franklin Lane Apartments	Anoka	763-427-7650	open		X	1, 2
Hamline	St. Paul	651-644-3442	N/A	X		2, 3, 4
Hanover Townhomes	St. Paul	651-292-8497	closed	X		1, 2, 3
Haralson	Apple Valley	952-431-5216	N/A	X		1
Hilltop Manor	Eveleth	218-744-5169	N/A		X	1, 2
Hillside Gardens	Proctor	218-624-2371	N/A		X	1
Hopkins Village Apartments	Hopkins	952-938-5787	open		X	1, 2
Lincoln Place Apartments	Mahtomedi	651-653-0640	closed	X		2, 3
North Court Apartments	Sandstone	612-289-8626	N/A		X	2
Oakland Square	Minneapolis	612-870-8015	closed	X		1, 2, 3, 4
Olson Townhomes	Minneapolis	612-377-9015	closed	X		2, 3
Park Plaza Apartments	Minneapolis	612-377-3650	closed	X		1, 2, 3
Prairie Meadows	Eden Prairie	952-941-5544	closed	X		1, 2, 3
Ramsey Hill	St. Paul	651-229-0502	N/A	X		1, 2, 3
Raspberry Ridge Apartments	Hopkins	952-933-3260	closed	X		1, 2, 3
Roseville Seniors	Roseville	651-488-0747	N/A		X	1, 2
Slater Square Apartments	Minneapolis	612-340-1261	N/A	X		efficiency & 1
Spirit on Lake	Minneapolis	612-724-3029	N/A	X		1, 2
Talmage Green	Minneapolis	612-623-0247	closed	X		2, 3, 4
Trinity Apartments	Minneapolis	612-721-2252	N/A		X	1, 2
Trinity on Lake	Minneapolis	612-721-2252	N/A	X		1, 2
Unity Place	Brooklyn Center	763-560-8808	closed	X		2, 3
Vadnais Highland Townhomes	Vadnais Heights	651-653-0640	closed	X		2, 3
Veterans and Community Housing - Sober Housing	Minneapolis	612-333-0027	N/A			efficiency
Brustad Place, aka Veterans East	Minneapolis	612-208-1712	N/A		efficiency	
Visitation Place	St Paul	612-724-3029	N/A	X		1, 2, 3
Willow Apartments	Little Falls	320-632-0980	N/A		X	1, 2
Woodland Court Apartments	Park Rapids	218-732-9312	N/A		X	1, 2



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